Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00627 01 OF 03 101146Z ACTION AID-59

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 627

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TAGS:

SUBJ: REPORT OF LIVESTOCK EXPERT AND CDO RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: A. STATE 044895, B. NOUAKCHOTT 413, C. NOUAKCHOTT 584 D. NOUAKCHOTT 271, E. NOUAKCHOTT 593, F. NOUAKCHOTT 476, G. NOUAKCHOTT 464. H. NOUAKCHOTT 554

SUMMARY. USING FINDINGS OF LIVESTOCK EXPERT THOMAS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ENVIRONMENTAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, CDO RECOMMENDS THAT USG PROVIDE 10,000 MT CATTLE FEED CONCENTRATE (SAME REQUEST AS MADE REF D) AND 200 MT MINERAL-SALT SUPPLEMENT. ADDITIONALLY CDO RECOMMENDS USG PROVIDE 2,500 MT CUPTLE FEED, AND SOLICIT INTEREST OF SOME MAJOR PRIVATE CONCERN (PERHAPS A PRIVATE OIL COMPANY) TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HOSES, (TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 320 KILOMETERS) LINKAGES AND JUNCTION STATIONS, ALONG WITH APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL TO ASSEMBLE HOSES, ON A LOAN BASIS, WITH VIEW TO HELPINGALLEVIATE SERIOUS WATER SITUATION IN THE INTERIOR. OBJECTIVE THESE INPUTS, WHICH SHOULD BE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER DONOR INPUTS, IS TO HELP PREVENT EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK DEATHS,

EXTIMATED TO BE AT MAXIMUM APPROXIMATELY 1,025,000 ANIMAL UNITS, REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY DOLS 181,000,000 OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00627 01 OF 03 101146Z

INVESTMENT; AS WELL AS TO HELP PREVENT POSSIBLE KARIOUS LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES. END SUMMARY.

1. AID/DAKAR LIVESTOCK EXPERT THOMAS JUST RETURNED FROM FIVE DAY OVERLVND TRIP TO REGIONS 7 (NOUAKCHOTT), 5 (ALEG, 3 (KIFFA), 10 (SELEBABY),#& (KAEDI), 6 (ROSSO). IN FOLLOWING DISCUSSION TERM "WESTERN REGIONS" WILL REFER TO REGIONS 5, 6,

- 7 AND WESTERN PART OF REGION 4. TERM "EASTERN REGIONS" WILL REFER TO REGIONS 3, 10HWQJY ERN PART OF REGION 4.
- 2. RAPOGSNDYHAT BETWEEN 500,000-600,000 CATTLE, 2.5 MILGSON SHEEP AND GOATS, 260,000 CAMELS, 8,000 HORSES AND 135,000 DONKEYS SUBJECT TO FAMINE. FOREGOING REPRESENTS 1.4 MILLION ANIMAL UNITS.
- 3. REPORTS ALSO THAT THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO PASTURAGE IN WESTERN REGIONS, WHILE IN EASTERN REGIONS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PASTURAGE WITH SUFFICIENT WATERING POINTS TO ACCOMMODATGEANIMAI CURRE NTLY IN EASTERN REGIONS THROUGH APRIL. ADDITION-ALLY, IN EASTERN REGIONSCLHERE IS ESTIMATED 2 MILLION HECTARES OF GOOD PASTURAGE BUT UNUSED BECAUSE OF LACK OF WATERING POINTS.
- 4. IFHTATER WERE AVAILABLE IN THESE 2 MILLION HECTARES THIS
 PASTURAGE PROBABLY COULD ACCOMMODATE ALL ANIMALS ALREADY
 IN EASTERN REGIONS BETWEEN END OF APRIL AND BEGINNING OF
 RAINY SEASON, WHICH FOR PURPOSES ALL CALCULATIONS THISMWG WE
 ASSUME WILL BEGIN O/A JULY 15. (RECOGNIZING THAT THE BEGINNING OF THE
 RAINY SEASON WAS LATE IN 1977). ADDITIONALLY, THESE 2 MILLION
 HECTARES, AGAIN ASSUMING WATER WERE AVAILABLE, COULD ACCOMMODATE
 APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT OF ANIMAL UNITS NOW IN WESTERN
 REGIONS BETWEEN MID-MARCH AND MID-JULY. THUS, BARRING THE
 REOPENING OF THE SENEGAL FRONTIER TO TRANSHUMANCE (SEE REFS
 UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00627 01 OF 03 101146Z

E AND G) APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF ANIMAL UNITS IN WESTERN REGIONS (APPROXIMATELY 250,000 ANIMAL UNITS) CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERISH, EVEN IF (A) WATER IS MADE AVAILABLE IN UNUSED PASTURAGE, AND (B) JYP PERCENT OF ANI AL UNITS UN WESTERN REGIONS CAN MAKE THE TREK TO THE EASTE F REGIONS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WATER NOT MADE AVAILABLE AND WEST-TO-EAST TREK NOT POSSIBLZ HQIQHEN PERHAPS 625,000 ANIMAL UNITS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERISH IN WESTERN REGIONS, WHILE PERHAPS 50 PER CENT OF ANIMAL UNITS, OR APPROXIMATELY 400,000 ANIMAL UNITS, CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERISH IN EASTERN REGIONS. IN SUM, MINIMAL NUMBER OF ANIMAL UNITS EXPECTED TO PERISH IS APPROXIMATELY JIP PPP KIF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED) WHILE MAXIMUM NUMBER IS 1,025,000 UNITS (IF NO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED).

5. ON BASIS PRICE OF 8,000 UM FOR AN ADULT COW AT PRIME MARKET BEFORE DROUGHT, DEATHS OF 1,025,000 ANIMAL UNITS WOULD REPRESENT A LOSS IN INVERTMENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 181 MILLION.

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00627 02 OF 03 101257Z ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 SSO-00 EB-08 OES-07 CIAE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 627

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6. LIVESTOCK EXPERT RECOMMENDS 4 TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS: K-GY PROVIDE FEED GRAINS TO SUSTAIN TREK OF ANIMALS FROMOILESTERN REGIONS TO EASTERN REGIONS; (B) PROVIDE WATER IN

THE 2 MILLION HECTARES MDQWRSED PASTURAGE; (C) PROVIDE

CONCENTRATED CATTLE FEED; AND (D) PRIVIDE SALT-MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS.

7. INTERDEPENDANCE OF THESE 4 INTERVENTIORASAKES QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATES DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE FOUR POSSIBLE SCENARIOS.

8. FIRST SCENARIO, WHICH IS DO-NOTHING SOLUTION, WOULD RESULT IN APPROXIMATELY 1,025,000 ANIMAL UNIT DEATHS, PERHAPS LESS IF SENEGALESE FRONTIER REOPENED.

9. SECOND SCENARIO, WHICH IN MINIMAL SOLUTION, WOULD BE TO ABANDON LIVESTOCK IN WESTERN REGIONS, HOPING THAT SOME DEATHS COULD BDAVOIDED IN THESE REGIONS BY REOPENING THE SENEGALESE FRONTIER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PREPARING LIVESTOCK IN EASTERN REGIONS FOR "BAD TIMES," I.E., THE 10 WEEK PERIOD BETWEEN END OF APRIL WHEN PASTURAGE WILL BE GONE AND JULY 15 WHEN RAINS ASSUMED TO COME. PREPARATION FOR "BAD TIMES" WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY MAKING ANIMALS IN EASTERN REGIONS HEALTHIER, BY PROVIDING CONCENTRATED CATTLE FEED AND SALT-MINERAL FEED SUPPLEMENTS. DEATHS WOULD BE LESS THAN 1,025,000 ANIMAL UNITS BQO IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY BY HOW MUCH. ESTIMATED TOTAL INPUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00627 02 OF 03 101257Z

REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE 26,000 MT OF ANIMAL FEED CONCENTRATE AND 200 MT OF SALT-MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS. THESE TONNAGE LEVELS ASSUME SUPPLEMENTS AVAILABLE BY APPROXIMATELY MARCH 15.

IF SUPPLEMENTS AVAILABLE AFTER MARCH 15 TONNAGE SHOULD BE REDUCED.

10. THIRD SCENARIO, WHICH IS AVERAGE SOLUTION, WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO ABANDON LIVESTOCK IN WESTERN REGIONS, WHILE AT SAME TIME PROVIDING WATER IN DRY PASTURAGE IN EASTERN REGIONS. UNDER THIS SCENARIO DEATHS PROBABLY WOULD BE 625,000 ANIMAL UNITS, ALL IN WESTERN REGIONS. CONCENTRATES AND SALT-NINERAL SUPPLEMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED, IN SAME QUANTITIES AS IN SECOND SCENARIOBFGAS HEDGE AGAINST PROLONGED DROUGHT. I.E., IN EVENT RAINS COME LATER THAT MID-JULY.

11. FOURTH SCENARIO, WHICH IS MAXIMUM SOLUTION, WOULD BE TO Z Y AND SAVE AS MANY ANIMAL UNITS AS POSSIBLE. INPUTS WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN THIRD SCENARIO EXCEPT 5,000 MT OF FEED GRAIN WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED, TO SUSTAIN TREK OF ANIMALS FROM WESTERN REGIONS TO EASTERN REGIONS (CALCULATED TO AVERAGE 15 DAYS). UNDER THIS SCENARIO THERE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 250,000 CATTLE UNIT DEATHS, ALL IN WESTERN REGIONS.

12. FOR SCENARIOS 3 AND 4 WATERING POINTS COULD BE PROVIDED IN ONE OF FOURMAYS: (A) SINKING WELLS, (B) PROVIDING TANK TRUCKS TO HAUL WATER FROM SENEGAL RIVER AND KONKOSSA LAKE, IN ADDITION TO CONSTRUCTING CONCRETE WATERING TROUGHS, (C) PROVIDING LONG HOSES TO PUMP WATER FROM SENEGAL RIVER AND KONKOSSA LAKE TO CONCRETE WATERING TROUGH, OR (C) SOME COMBINATION OF THESE.

13. LIVESTOCK EXPERT SUGGZSTS THAT THERE BE 4 WATERING COMPLEXES, ONE APPROXIMATELY 30 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KONKOSSA LAKE, THE OTHER THREE APPROXIMATELY 40, 50 AND YP UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00627 02 OF 03 101257Z

KILOMETERS NORTH OF SENEGAL RIVER, RESPECTIVELY. ALL WATERING POINTS WOULD BE IN EITHER 4TH OR 10TH REGIONS. EACH COMPLEX WOULD CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 4 WATERING POINTS, EACH SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER BY A MINIMUM OF 10 KILOMETERS.

14. WELLS PROBABLY WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO CONSTRUCT (SEE REF F), SINCE TOTAL NUMBER OF WATERING POINTS FOR EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF PASTURAGE ESTIMATED TO BE 16. AS FOR TANK TRUCKS, IT ESTISPIANANCOMMODATE WATERING REQUIREMENTS OF ANIMALS INVOLVED (WATERING ONCE EVERY TWO DAYS) THERE WOULD BE NEED FOR APPROXIMATELY 140 TRUCKS (ON ASSUMPTION EACH TRUCK CARRIES 12,000 LITERS OF WATER AND EACPYRUCK MAKES THREE TRIPS PER DAY FROM SENEGAL RIVER OR KONKOSSA LAKE TO WATERING POINTS). PROBABLE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THIS MANY TRUCKS IN TIME, EVEN IF FUNDING AVAILABLE, NOT TO MENTION PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING SUCH AN ENDEAVOR. THIRD POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO LENGTHS OF OIL COMPANY TYPE HOSES TO PUMP WATER FROM SENEGAL RIVER AND KONKOSSA LAKE TO WATERING POINTS.

TOTAL LENGTH REQUIRED WOULD BE EQUAL TO DISTANCES BETWEEN WATER SOURCES TO FOUR AKTER COMPLEXES (180 KILOMETERS) PLUS DISTANCES FROM CENTER OF EACH COMPLEX TO 4 WATERING POINTS (40 KILOMETERS AT EACH CLUSTER, FOR TOTAL OF 160 KILOMETERS:. TOTAL IS 320 KILOMETERS OF HOSE.

15. FOR THIRD AND FOURTH SCENARIOS WATERING TROUGHS WOULD BE 30 METERS IN LENGTH. LENGTH DETERMINED BY NUMBER OF ANIMALS INVOLVED, WATERING EACH ANIMAL EVERY TWO DAYS, AND ASSUMING ONE METER WILL ACCOMMODATE TWO ANIMALS AT T AIH AND AVERAGE TIME TO DRINWUIS 5 MINUTES.

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00627 03 OF 03 101305Z ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 SSO-00 EB-08 OES-07 CIAE-00 (ISO) W ------011289 161934Z /41

O 101015Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9096 INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 627

16. POSSIBLE PROBLEM WITH ALL WATER SOLUTIONS IS PROSPECT THAT EXTRAORDINARY ANIMAL CONCENTRATION WILL PERMANENTLY DAMAGE PASTURE. HOWEVER, IF WATERING TROUGHS ARE PROPERLY SPACED DAMAGE WOULD BE NON-EXISTENT OR MINIMAL (WHICH IS ADVANTAGE OF HOSES OVER WELLS, SINCE WELLS PROBABLY COULDN'T BE PROPERLY SPACED.)

17. IN SUM, DONORS AND GIRM FACED WITH ALTERNATIVES OF ANIMAL UNIT DEATHS OF (A) 1,025,000 (B) SOMETHING LESS THAN 1,025,000 BUT MORE THAT 625,000 (C) 625,000, AND (D) 250,000, ON ASSUMPTION RAINS COME BY MID-JULY AND ON FURTHER ASSUMPTION THAT SENEGAL FRONTIER REMAINS CLOSED.

18. CDO RECOMMENDS THAT USG, AND THROUGH INFLUENCE OF USG THE DONOR COMMUNITY AT LARGE, OPT FOR MAXIMUM SOLUTION. CDO WOULD RECOMMEND LESS THAN MAXIMUM SOLUTION IF ONLY CONSIDERATION WAS LOSS OF MEAT AND MILK FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, SINCE THESE LOSSES, THEORETICALLY AT LEAST, COULD BE COVERED BY PL-480-TYPE ASSISTANCE, I.E., FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

19. MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS RECOMMENDATION IS ENVIRON-MENTAL AND PREVENTION OF POSSIBLE GREATER DISASTER THAN THE ONE NOW CONFRONTING MAURITANIA. INACTION ON PART OF DONOR COMMUNITY, OR LESS THAN MAXIMUM SOLUTION COULD ONLY RESULT IN DESTRUCTION OF PASTURE WITH

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00627 03 OF 03 101305Z

CONSEQUENT DUNING AND

DESTRUCTION OF TREES. ADDITIONALLY, INACTION OR LESS THAN MAXIMUM SOLUTION WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN CONSIDERABLENKGVZ EXODUS AND CROWDING IN URBAN AREAS. ALL OF THESE EFFECTS WOULD BE ON TOP OF ALMOST TEN YEARS OF SIMILAR CONSEQUENCES, WITH OCCASIONAL RELIEF DURING LIMITED PERIODS OF GOOD RAINS, I.E., EFFECT CURRENT DROUGHT MUST BE SEEN AS CUMULATIVE. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SEVERE EFFECTS CURRENT DROUGHT COULD BE STRAW THAT BREAKS CAMEL'S BACK SHOUOD IT RESULT IN PRECIPITOUS CHANGE IN CHARACTERISTIC NOMADIC AND QUASI-NOMADIC ATTITUDES THAT CHARACTERIZE MAURITANIAN SOCIETY, WITH PROSPECTS FOR LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT, EXCESSIVE DEMANDS FOR URBAN SERVICES, CORRESPONDING DISENCHANTMENT, AND VIRTUAL ABANDONMENT OF THE INTERIOR AS AN ECONOMIC RESOURCE. CHANGE IN THESE ATTUTUDES SHOULD ALSO BE VIEWED AS CUMULATIVE, AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ALMOST 10 YEARS OF DROUGHT OR QUASI-DROUGHT.

20. BELIEVE DISASTER PREVENTION IN TERMS DESCRIBED PRECEDING PARA PROBABLE BEST ACHEVED BY ATTEMPTING TO KEEP POPULATION IN PLACE DURING CURRENT CRISIS, I.E., IN THE INTERIOR. THIS ACCOMPLICHED, ON THE ONE HAND, BY PROVIDING FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (WHICH ALSO HAS HUMANITARIAN RESULTS), AND BY PROVIDING WHEREWHITHAL FOR CATTLE TO LIVE, WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY KEEP HERDERS IN PLACE BUT ALSO HELP KEEP SEDENTARY POPULATION IN PLACE BECAUSE LIVESTOCK PRESSURES ON WATER ARE DIMINISHING WATER SUPPLIES FOR SEDENTARY PEOPLE. (FOR MORE COMPLETE DISCUSSION POSSIBLE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS SEE REF C).

21. ACCORDINGLY, CDO RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:
(A) USG TO PROVIDE 10,000 MT CATTLE FEED CONCENTRATE
) WHICH IN ACCORDANCE WITH JANUARY REQUEST NOTED REF D). THIS
WOULD CONSTITUTE APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF ESTIMATED NEEDS
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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00627 03 OF 03 101305Z

(POSSIBLE THE FED COULD PICK UP LARGE PART OF THE BALANCE); (B) USG TO PROVIDE 200 MT OF MINERAL-SALT SUPPLEMENT;

(C) USG TO PROVIDE 2,500 MT, OR 50 PERCENT, OF CATTLE
FEED NEEDED TO SUSTAIN EASTERN TREK (WITH SOME OTHER DONOR
PICKING UP BALANCE, POSSIBLY FED); AND
(D) USG TO ATTEMPT TO SOLICIT INTEREST OF SOME PRIVATE
CONCERN, PERHAPS A PRIVATE OIL COMPANY, TO PROVIDE 320
KILOMETERS OF HOSE, LINKAGES AND JUNCTION STATIONS, ALONG
WITH APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL TO ASSEMBLE THE HOSES, ON A LOAN
BASIS. IF HOS UNITS ARE SHORT ENOUGH IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR
OIL CAMPANY TANKER TO OFFLOAD WITH LIGHTERS AT NOUAKCHOTT PORT.

22. ESTIMATED COST TO PROTECT DOLS $181,\!000,\!000$ INVESTMENT AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) 26,000 MT CATTLE FEED CONCENTRATE, DOLS 5.8 MILLION
- (B) 5,000 MT OF CATTLE FEED, DOLS .8 MILLION
- (C) 200 MT SALT-MINERAL SUPPLEMENT, DOLS .1 MILLION
- (D) COSTS FOR CONSTRUCTION CONCRETE TROUGHS WILL BE

PROVIDED BY THOLAS DIRECTLY FROM DAKAR.

- (E) COST OF HOSES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT UNKNOWN; FOR
- 140 TRUCKS, HOWEVER, TO ACHIEVE SAME PURPOSE, COST ESTIMATED
- TO BE DOLS 3.5 HLLION.5
- (F) TRUCK OPERATIONS, DOLS .7 MILLION
- (G) TOTAL, EXCLUSIVE OF CONCRETE TROUGHS, DOLS 10.9

MILLION OR APPROX 6 PERCENT OF INVESTMENT. KRYZA

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